

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 19 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 10, and 19 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 19 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure, such as in original Claims 1-19 and throughout the written description. Thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 3-9 and 12-18 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jeyachandran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,567,176). The rejection is respectfully traversed, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants invention relates to an image forming apparatus, such as a printer, having printing means and voice recognition means. In general, such an apparatus typically generates noise when the printing means operates. Consequently, such noise can cause recognition error if voice recognition is performed during such operation. Applicants invention, as recited in Claims 1, 10, and 19, addresses this problem by providing a control means/step for controlling the voice recognition means and printing means so that if the acceptance means/step accepts a start request while the printing means is operating, the printing means suspends the printing operation and then said voice recognition means starts the voice recognition. By virtue of this feature, the operating noise from the printing means is eliminated and recognition error can be greatly reduced.

Jeyachandran et al. relates to various techniques for allowing a plurality of users to efficiently employ a single printer and for allowing for communication between a printer/server and external devices. In particular, the portions of the specification highlighted by the Office Action disclose a technique in which a schedule or a personal database can be accessed to transmit a response, relative to the input of the natural language by a user (see col. 39, line 42 - col. 40, line 8) and a technique in which devices and a controller directly or indirectly communicate with each other.

However, Jeyachandran et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest any solution for the aforementioned problem of an image forming apparatus that makes untoward noise and causes recognition error when voice recognition is performed during printing. In particular, Jeyachandran et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest a control means/step for controlling the voice recognition means and printing means so that if the acceptance means/step accepts a start request while the printing means is operating, the printing means suspends the printing operation and then said voice recognition means starts the voice recognition, as recited in Claims 1, 10, and 19.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Jeyachandran et al. fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 10, and 19. The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that it is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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